27th January 1931]

A.—(*a*) & (*b*) Yes.

(*c*) The Government have received a report from the District Magistrate on the subject.

Mr. C. R. PARTHASARATHI AYYANGAR :—" May I know the reason for the delay ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" There have been more than one transfer from one court to another and there have been a large number of witnesses in the case."

Mr. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED :—" May I know whether the report from the District Magistrate will be placed on the table of the House ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" No, Sir."

Mr. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED :—" May I know what kind of action Government propose to take in the matter ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" There is no need for any action whatever."

Mr. M. A. MANIKKAVELU NAYAKAR :—" May I know whether the report justifies the delay ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" The District Magistrate is of opinion, and the Government agree with it, that there is no unreasonable delay in the matter."

Mr. M. A. MANIKKAVELU NAYAKAR :—" Has the hon. the Law Member read the report ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" Yes, Sir."

Canals

Expenditure incurred for deepening the Buckingham Canal.

* 63 *Q.*—Mr. T. SUNDARA RAO NAYUDU : Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state what is the expenditure incurred yearly during the three years ending 31st March 1930 on the deepening of the Buckingham Canal (*a*) north of Madras, (*b*) south of Madras (1) up to Kovelong, (2) from Kovelong to Markanam terminus in the South Arcot district ?

A.—Excluding the cost of annual silt clearance the expenditure has been as follows :—

(*a*) Nil.

			RS.
(*b*) (1) Year ending	31st March 1928	... ...	Nil.
Do	31st March 1929	... ...	8,551
Do.	31st March 1930	... ...	32,846

(2) Nil.

Control over the banks of the Cooum river.

* 64 *Q.*—Mr. T. SUNDARA RAO NAYUDU : Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether there is dual control over the Cooum river banks exercised by the Public Works Department and the Corporation ; and

(b) whether such control is responsible for the loss of the revenue either to the Government or to the Corporation from the fuel depot keepers and others occupying the river margins?

A.—(a) The Public Works Department deals with the level of the water in the Cooum. The Madras Corporation patrolizes pools as an anti-malarial measure and attempts to prevent pollution of the banks by the committing of nuisance upon them.

(b) No. The Government are not aware of any such loss of revenue.

Land Revenue

Seigniorage for the quarrying of stone in Allinagar village.

* 65 Q.—Mr. C. R. Parthasarathi Ayyangar: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether certain lands in Allinagar village of Polur taluk were sold away for alleged arrears due to Government for the quarrying of stones by the late Abdul Aziz Sahib;

(b) on what principle the Government levy seigniorage for the quarrying of stone on patta lands over and above the acreage assessment due upon the land; and

(c) what is the method adopted by the officers of the Government in determining the value of the stones quarried from any particular land, and what is the percentage of the seigniorage levied on the value of the stone quarries?

A.—(a) S. No. 278-3 A-2 of Polur village, Polur taluk, belonging to the late Abdul Aziz Sahib was sold on 24th September 1930 for Rs. 425 for arrears of seigniorage fees amounting to Rs. 375-2-0 due from him. The widow of the defaulter deposited the arrear with 5 per cent of the purchase money within thirty days of the date of sale. The sale was therefore cancelled. No lands in Allinagar village of Polur taluk were sold for arrears due from the late Abdul Aziz Sahib.

(b) The attention of the hon. Member is invited to paragraphs 5—18 B on pages 49—53 of the Madras Mining Manual, a copy of which is in the Legislative Council library.

(c) Seigniorage is charged not as a percentage of the value of the stone quarried but at a specified rate for each cart-load of stone quarried. The rates are given in Appendix IV in Chapter VIII of the Madras Mining Manual.

Loans

Amount of loans advanced to agriculturists in three taluks of Bellary district.

* 66 Q.—Mr. A. Ranganatha Mudaliyar: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state the amount of loan advanced under the Agriculturists' Loans Act and the Land Improvement Loans Act in the taluks of Bellary, Rayadrug and Siruguppa, Bellary district, in the faslis 1330, 1331, 1333, 1334, 1336 and 1337, respectively?

A.—A statement containing the information is appended.[a]

[a] Printed as Appendix I on page 277 infra.